

From: James Lewis Longhurst
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:11 am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe that the proposed Microsoft settlement is a spectacularly bad idea. In particular, the settlement does not go far enough to make public Microsoft-proprietary software interfaces and formats. If Microsoft continues to hold a monopoly power over its own proprietary software, that monopoly will only increase over time due to the cumulative nature of software development. If the monopoly power is not limited now, it will become even less able to be limited in the future.

As an historian, I've spent a fair amount of time thinking about the development and application of the Sherman Anti-Trust act. This seems to me to be a perfect time for government intervention.

James Longhurst
Carnegie Mellon University
Department of History